Submission dated 05,09,2005 Our Ref. EPE645KG089sto

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PATENT SPECIFICATION

(II) 1 483 591

(21) Application No. 34993/73 (21) Application No. 10842/74 (22) Filed 23 July 1973

(22) Filed 11 March 1974

(23) Complete Specification filed 10 July 1974

(44) Complete Specification published 24 Aug. 1977

(51) INT CL3 B05D 1/02 C07G 7/02

(52) Index at acceptance

B2E 199 200 212 21Y 302 327 360 393 39X 39Y 424 42Y 44Y 483 498 505 50Y 513 603 60X 60Y 634 63Y 65Y 693 708 715 71Y 723

(72) The inventors of this invention in the sense of being the actual devisers thereof within the meaning of Section 16 of The Patents Act 1949 are OLE WORTS, a Swedish subject of 7, Akselsvej, DK-3660 Stenløse, Denmark and POUL LINDGREEN, a Danish subject of 63, Engholmvej, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark

(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO A PROCESS FOR COATING WATER SOLUBLE OR WATER DISPERSIBLE PARTICLES BY MEANS OF THE FLUID BED TECHNIQUE

We, NOVO INDUSTRI A/S. (1) We, NOVO INDUSTRI A/S, formerly known as Novo Terapentisk Laboratorium A/S, a Danish company of Novo Alle, DK-2880 Bagsward, Denmark, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following stratement: the following statement:

This invention relates to a process for coating water soluble or water dispersible particles by means of the fluid bed technique.

It is known to coat various particulate products having a particle size of less than about 10 mm, preferably less than 1 mm, in order to minimize dust formation, e.g. enzyme containing additives for detergent compositions in powder form. However, considerable difficulties have been experienced in performing this coating. In practice it has hitherto been usual to utilize coating agents dissolved in organic solvents rather than in water when coating water soluble particles. The organic solvents have to be evaporated and recovered at a later stage of the process and may, furthermore, create a fire hazard and environmental problems. If, on the other hand, the organic solvent is not recovered, the coating process works in an uneconomical

May.

Also, it is known to utilize the fluid bed technique to coat various water soluble or water dispersible particles by atomization of aqueous solutions of film forming, water soluble coating agents, this process being des-cribed in Wurster's USA Patent No. cribed in Wurster's USA Patent No. 3,196,827. However, in this known process, it is difficult to avoid agglomeration of the particles to be coated, and it is mentioned that this known process is only suited for particles bigger than 30 mesh (ab. 0.6 mm). Also, by using Wurster's method it is diffi-cult to obtain thin coatings.

We have now found that it is possible to

utilize an aqueous liquid for coating particuthan about 1 mm (mean diameter in the range of from 0.1 to 0.6 mm) in a fluid bed process whereby particles can be coated with an extremely thin coating and without sub-

an extremely thin coating and without sub-stantial danger of agglomeration. According to the present invention there is provided a process for coating water soluble or water dispersible particles by means of the fluid bed technique, which process com-prises introduction of the particles to be coated in a fluid bed reactor the mean diameter of the particles to be coated being in the range of from 0.1 mm to 0.6 mm, and introduction of a coating material essenand introduction of a coating material essenand introduction of a coaing material essentially consisting of an aqueous solution or dispersion of a macromolecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent by means of atomization, wherein the relative humidity of ontiet air from the fluid bed is below 100% and wherein the maximum size of the atomized droplets of the coating fluid does not exceed the minimum size of the particles to be coated. If the maximum size of the atomized drop-

If the maximum size of the atomized droplets of the coating fluid exceeds the minimum size of the particles to be coated, agglomeration will occur.

Thus, by means of the invention, agglomeration can be avoided, and it is possible to perform the coating with a layer as thin





as 0.1-10 u, in a preferred embodiment 0.5—1 μ , corresponding to about 1% of the dry particle weight. For a given thickness of the layer of coating agent a larger amount

of coating agent, calculated on the particle weight, will be used with decreasing particle size. This will appear from the following Table I.

TABLE I

Amount of coating agent, calculated as per cent by weight of the 10 particles to be coated Alcalase P Thickness of Mean diameter of Mean diameter of particles 400 µ particles 700 µ coating 0.8% 1.5% 0.5% 0.5 μ 1.0 μ 15

Although the coating produced according to the invention in a preferred embodiment is very thin it is, according to the invention, also possible to produce coatings as thick as about 100 μ , if desired.

The minimum size of the particles to be

coated can be determined by sieve analysis, and the maximum size of the atomized droplets of coating fluid can be read from charts available from the manufacture of the nozzle, when the viscosity of the fluid and the pressure is known.

In a preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention the water soluble or water dispersible particles to be coated contain one or more enzymes, for example

proteases, amylases, lipases or celluloses.
In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention the enzyme or enzymes are bacterial proteinases.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention the bacterial proteinases are precoated in order to reduce dust formation.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention the bacterial proteinases are microbial proteinases such as Alcalase P or Alcalase M or are alkaline resistant proteinases manufactured according to British Patent No. 1,243,784.

Alcalase, which is a trade mark belonging to Novo Industri A/S, is a microbial pro-teinase. Alcalase P is a prilled Alcalase. Alcalase M is Alcalase which is treated by means of a Marumerizer as described in our co-pending British patent application No. 36564/70 (Serial No. 1,362,365) and in our published French Patent No. 2,099,349. The word "Marumerizer" is a Trade Mark

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the enzyme or enzymes are bacterial or fungal car-bohydrases.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the bacterial amylases are thermally stable amylases manufactured according to British Patent No. 1,296,839.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the macromolecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent is a cellulose derivative.

In another preferred embodiment of the 70 process according to the invention, the cellulose derivative is methyl cellulose, hydroxybutylmethyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethylmethyl cellulose or hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the macromolecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent is a polyvinylpyroli-

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the macromolecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent is a poly-ethylene glycol, preferably of a molecular weight in the range of from 400 to 6000.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the macro-molecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent is a methacrylic resin.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the macro-molecular film forming, water soluble or

water dispersible coating agent is gelatine.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the coating fluid contains a plasticizer.

In another preferred embodiment of the

process according to the invention, the plasticizer is a glycerol.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the glycerol is used in an amount of up to 60% of the dry weight of the coating agent, of the dry weight of the coating agent, preferably in an amount in the range of from 10 to 30% of the dry weight of the coating agent.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the con-centration of the macromolecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent in the coating fluid is in the range of from 2 to 50 weight-%.

In another preferred embodiment of the

process according to the invention, the con-

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80

90

95

100

105

110 *

centration of the macromolecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coaring agent in the coating fluid is in the range In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention the mean diameter of the particles to be costed in in the range of from 0.2 to 0.6 mm.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the thickness of the coating layer is in the range of

from 0.1 to 10 μ.

In another preferred embodiment of the process according to the invention, the thickness of the coating layer is in the range of from 0.5 to 1μ .

The process according to the invention can be carried out in a continuous manner as well as batchwise. However, in a preferred embodiment of the invention the process is carried out batchwise. In all the follow-Examples, the process is carried out

The invention also encompasses a coated product comprising coated water soluble or water dispersible particles, whenever pre-pared by means of the process according to the invention.

The water soluble or water dispersible particles can be of any material which, for any reason, is to be coated. Examples of materials encompassed are enzyme additives, for example, proteolytic enzyme additives for detergents, particulate medicaments, for example oral penicillin preparations, or hygroscopic substances, for example fertilizers.

Coating of the particles is carried out for various reasons, for example, in order to minimize dust formation, to protect against ultra-violet radiation, humidity or acidity or to minimize contamination.

The coating agent can be any macromole-cular film forming, water soluble or water

dispersible coating agent, for example:
Methocel MC 15: methyl cellulose of a
methoxyl DS (Degree of Substitution) of
1.64 to 1.92 and of a DP (Degree of Polymerization) corresponding to viscosities from 8 cP to 10,000 cP in a 2% aqueous solution at 20°C. The Word "Methocel" is a Trade Mark.

Tylose C 10: sodium carboxymethyl cellulose of a DS from 0.4 to 1.5 and a DP from 50 to 1000. The word "Tylose" is a Trade Mark

Tylose MH 20: methylhydroxyethyl cellulose (or hydroxyethylmethyl celiulose) of a methoxy DS from 1.0 to 2.0, a hydroxy-ethyl DS from 0.1 to 0.5 and a DP from 50 to 1000.

Methocel XD 1181: hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose of a methoxyl DS from 1.0 to 2.0, a hydroxypropyl DS from 0.1 to 0.5, and a DP from 50 to 1000.

Kollidon K 25 PVP: polyvinylpyrrolidone

of an average molecular weight of 10,000, 40,000, 160,000 and 360,000 and mixtures thereof resulting any intermediate average molecular weight and mixtures or single components modified with plasticizers such as carboxymethyl cellulose and cellulose acet-ate. The word "Kollidon" is a Trade Mark.

Carbowax: polyethylene glycols of average molecular weight of 400, 600, 1000, 1540, 4000, 6000 and mixtures thereof any inter-mediate average molecular weight. The word "Carbowax" is a Trade Mark.

Eudragit E 30 D: methacrylic resins, aqueous dispersions thereof. This tablet lacquer is completely insoluble in alkaline liquids. The word "Eudragit" is a Trade

Solugel: gelatine. The word "Solugel" is a Trade Mark.

Polypropylene glycols. Polyvinyl alcohols. Alemates.

The concentration of the coating agent in the aqueous or substantially aqueous solution or dispersion corresponds to a viscosity which or dispersion corresponds to a viscosity which is suitable for atomization. Usually, as mentioned before, the concentration is in the range of from 2 to 50 weight-%, preferably from 4 to 10 weight-%. The limits, however, are highly dependent on the individual coating agent used. The average diameter of the particles to be coated is usually in the range of from 100 μ to 600, even to 1000 μ , preferably from 200 μ to 600 μ . The relative humidity of the outlet air should usually not exceed 60%. The remperature of the air, which is used to fluidize the particles to be coated, should be adjusted in consideration of the nature of the particles to be coated.

The quality of the coating is not influenced by the shape of the particles. By use of the process of the invention it is possible to produce a continuous coating on spheres and on irregularly shaped particles as well. Several of the known coating procedures are not well adapted to the coating of irreguhardy shaped particles which are imperfectly coated, only. Therefore, the present process offers special advantages in connection with the coating of irregularly shaped particles. An example of such irregularly shaped particles. is a prilled enzyme product including prilled Alcalase or Alcalase P. When prilled Alcalase is coated in accordance with the invention a product consisting of irregularly shaped particles having a continuous coating is formed. Due to the irregular shape these particles have a very reduced tendency to segre-gate from the other particles of detergent compositions in powder form.

An additive consisting of spheroidal par-ticles having a density different from the density of the particles of the other components of a powdery detergent composition will have a tendency to segregate from said other par-

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85

90

95

100

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125

50 g 1000 g

Example 9

Polyethylene głycuł (Carbowax 4000)

Deionized water

115

50 g

1000 g

Methyl cellulose (Methocel MC 15)

The methyl cellulose was triturated with

Deionized water

60

6

			TABLE II		
	Example No.	Coating fluid prepared according to Example No.	Amount of coating layer on coated product	Amount in µg/100 (Total	of dust of product Enzyme
5		1 1 6	1% 1% 1%	20 20 5	2.1 1.6 0.8
	12	1 1	1/2% 1%	20 15	2.6 1.8
10		1 6 6	1 1/2% 2% 3%	20 10 10	0.8 1.1 0.8
15	. 13	1 1 1	1/2% 1/2%	5 20 5	1.8 1.0 1.0
	14	1 1 1	1% 1/2% 1%	10 50 15	1.6 3.4 1.6
20	tion of a coati	to 20 illustrate the preg ng fluid containing glyd ing coating fluids wit	cerol Sodium carbo	•	ose { } 90

100 g 900 g

Example 15
Methyl cellulose (Methocal MC 15) 50 g 950 g 25 Deionized water

The methyl cellulose was triturated with about 333 g of boiling water, after which the rest of the water (optionally cold) was added with stirring. The solution was allowed to stand in a cold place.

Example 16	
Methyl cellulose (Methocal MC 15)	42.5 g
Glycerol	7.5 g
Deionized water	950.0 g

A solution of methyl cellulose and de-ionized water was prepared as described in Example 15, whereupon the glycerol was added.

Example 17
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose
(Cellofas B 5) 40 Deionized water

The sodium carboxymethyl cellulose was triturated with about 333 g of boiling water, after which the rest of the water (optionally cold) was added with stirring. The solution was allowed to stand in a cold place. The word "Cellofas" is a Trade Mark.

Example 18 Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose		50
(Cellofas B 5)	85 g	
Glycerol	15 g	
Deionized water	900 g	

A solution of sodium carboxymethyl cellu-lose and deionized water was prepared as described in Example 17, whereupon the glycerol was added.

Example 19 Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (Cckol HS) Deionized water 100 g 900 g 60

A solution of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose and deionized water was prepared as described in Example 17. The word "Cekol" is a Trade Mark.

Example 20 Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (Cckol HS) Glycerol 85 g 15 g 900 g Glycerol Deionized water 70

A solution of sodium carboxymethyl cellu-

A solution of sodium carboxymethyl cellusions and deionized water was prepared as described in Example 17, whereupon the glycerol was added.

The solutions prepared according to Examples 15 to 20 were used for the coating of Alcalase M in a fluid bed system as stated in Reapple 21 in Example 21.

Example 21

	Apparatus: Alcalase M:	"WSG-300 (W. Glatt, Haltingen, Germany) 600 kg
	Nozzle	six-headed nozzle
5	Internal diameter:	1.2 mm
	Jacket diameter:	6.0 mm
	Pressure:	6.0 ato.
	Inlet temperature of fluidizing air:	46°—50°C
	Temperature of particulate material:	23°27°C
10.	Feed rate of coating fluid:	1700 ml/min.
	Fluidizing air:	8000 N m ² /hour
	▼	-

In all cases particulate products are produced having remarkably good properties, especially in regard to the low dust level.

The amount of dust present in the coated products prepared according to Example 21 appears from the following table III.

TABLE III

20	Example No.	Coating fluid prepared according to Example No.	Amount of coating layer on coated product		t of dust g of product Enzyme
		15	1%	20	1.2
		16	1%	10	0.5
		17	1%	15	1.6
25	21	18	1%	10	0.7
	•	19	1%	30	1.3
		20	1%	10	0.8

It appears from the above table III that by using glycerol as a plasticizer in the coating fluid a remarkably advantageous effect on the dust level of the coated particles was obtained.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

1. A process for coating water soluble or water dispersible particles by means of the fluid bed technique, which process comprises introduction of the particles to be coated in a fluid bed reactor, the mean diameter of the particles to be coated being in the range of from 0.1 to 0.6 mm, and introduction of a coating material essentially consisting of an aqueous solution or dispersion of a macro-molecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent by means of atomization, wherein the relative humidity of outlet air from the fluid bed is below 100% and wherein the maximum size of the atomized droplets of the coating fluid does not exceed the minimum size of the particles to be coated.

2. A process according to Claim 1, wherein the water soluble or water dispersible particles to be coated contain one or more

cuzymes.

3. A process according to Claim 2, wherein the enzyme or enzymes is/are bacterial proteinases.

4. A process according to Claim 3, wherein the bacterial proteinase(s) is/are preconted in order to reduce dust formation.

5. A process according to Claim 4, where-

in the bacterial proteinase(s) is/are microbial

in the bacterial proteinase(s) is/are alkaline resistant proteinase(s) manufactured according to British Patent No. 1,243,784.

7. A process according to Claim 2, wherein the enzyme or enzymes is/are bacterial or

fungal carbohydrase(s).

8. A process according to Claim 7, wherein the bacterial carbohydrase(s) is/are thermally stable amylase(s) manufactured according to British Patent No. 1,296,839.

9. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the macro-mole-cular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent is a cellulose de-

10. A process according to Claim 9, wherein the cellulose derivative is methyl cellulose, hydroxybutyimethyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethylmethyl cellulose or hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

11. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the macro-molecular film forming, water soluble or water dis-persible coating agent is a polyvinylpyrroli-

12. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the macro-molecular film forming, water soluble or water dispersible coating agent is a polyethylene glycol.

13. A process according to Claim 12, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a mole-

proteinsse(s).

6. A process according to Claim 3, where-

	cular weight in the range of from 400 to	as described in foregoing Examples 11 and 6.	65
	6000.	32. A process for coating, substantially	
	14. A process according to any one of Claims I to 8, wherein the macro-molecular	as described in foregoing Examples 11	
5	film forming, water soluble or water dis-	and 7. 33. A process for coating, substantially	70
	persible coating agent is a methacrylic resin.	as described in foregoing Examples 11	
	15. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the macro-molecular	and 8.	
	film forming, water soluble or water dis-	34. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 11	
10	persible coating agent is a gelatine.	and 9.	75
	16. A process according to any one of the	35. A process for coating, substantially	
	preceding claims, wherein the coating fluid contains a plasticizer.	as described in foregoing Examples 11 and 10.	
	17. A process according to Claim 16,	36. A process for coating, substantially	
15	wherein the plasticizer is glycerol.	as described in foregoing Examples 12	80
	18. A process according to Claim 17, wherein the glycerol is used in an amount of	and 1. 37. A process for coating, substantially	
	up to 60% of the dry weight of the coating	as described in foregoing Examples 12	
	agent.	and 2.	85
20	 A process according to Claim 18, wherein the glycerol is used in an amount in 	38. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 12	0,5
	the range of from 10 to 30% of the dry	and 3.	
	weight of the coating agent.	39. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 12	
25	20. A process according to any one of Claims 9 to 19, wherein the concentration	and 4.	90
23	of the macromolecular film forming, water	40. A process for coating, substantially	
	soluble or water dispersible coating agent in the coating fluid is in the range of from 2	as described in foregoing Examples 12 and 5.	
	to 50 weight-%.	41. A process for coating, substantially	
30	21. A process according to Claim 20,	as described in foregoing Examples 12	95
	wherein the concentration of the macromole- cular film forming, water soluble or water	and 6. 42. A process for coating, substantially	
	dispersible coating agent in the coating fluid	as described in foregoing Examples 12	
	is in the range of from 4 to 10 weight-%.	and 7. 43. A process for coating, substantially	100
35	22. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mean dia-	as described in foregoing Examples 12	
	meter of the particles to be coated is in the	and 8.	
	range of from 0.2 to 0.6 mm. 23. A process according to any one of the	44. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 12	
40	preceding claims, wherein the thickness of the	and 9.	105
	coating layer is in the range of from U.1	45. A process for ceating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 12	
	 A process according to Claim 23, 	and 10.	
	wherein the thickness of the coating layer is	46. A process for coating, substantially as	
45	in the range of from 0.5 to 1 μ . 25. A process according to any one of the	described in foregoing Examples 13 and 1.	110
	preceding claims, wherein the coating opera-	47. A process for coating, substantially as	
	tion is performed batchwise.	described in foregoing Examples 13 and	
50	Z6. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 11	Z. 48. A process for coating, substantially as	115
•	and 1.	described in foregoing Examples 13 and	
	27. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 11	3. 49. A process for coating, substantially as	
	and 2.	described in foregoing Examples 13 and	
55	28. A process for coating, substantially	4,	120
	as described in foregoing Examples 11 and 3.	50. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 13 and	
	29. A process for coating, substantially	5.	
co	as described in foregoing Examples 11	51. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 13 and	125
60	and 4. 30. A process for coating, substantially		123
	as described in foregoing Examples 11	52. A process for coating, substantially as	
	and 5.	described in foregoing Examples 13 and 7.	
	31. A process for coating, substantially	**	

53. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 13 and

54. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 13 and

55. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 13 and 10

56. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

57. A process, for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

58. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and 3.

59. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and 4,

60. A process for conting, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

61. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

62. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

63. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

64. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

65. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 14 and

66. A process for coating, substantially as 40 described in foregoing Examples 21 and

67. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 21 and

 68. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 21 and 17.

69. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 21 and

70. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 21 and

71. A process for coating, substantially as described in foregoing Examples 21 and

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20.
72. A coated product whenever prepared by the process of any one of the preceding claims.

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Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by the Courier Press, Leamington Spa, 1977
Published by The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2A 1AY, from which copies may be obtained.